Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1994/L.47
28 February 1994

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 10 (a)

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR:

TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic*, Denmark*, Finland, France, Hungary*, Iceland*, Ireland*, Italy, Latvia*, Liechtenstein* Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway*, Poland, Senegal*, Spain*, Sweden*, Switzerland*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which state that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which the Assembly noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and Assembly resolution 47/109 of 16 December 1992,

Reaffirming the importance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1993/38 of 5 March 1993,

Welcoming the recommendation contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, that providing necessary resources for assistance to victims of torture should be given high priority, inter alia by additional contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Convinced that the struggle to eliminate torture includes the provision of assistance in a humanitarian spirit to victims of torture and their families,

Taking note of the information provided by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/48/520, E/CN.4/1994/29 and Add.1),

Taking note also of the actions taken by the Secretary-General, through the staff of the Centre for Human Rights, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to increase public awareness of the Fund and its humanitarian work,

Recalling the statement by the Board of Trustees of the Fund on the need to receive contributions from Governments on a regular basis, which, inter alia, would prevent the interruption of programmes in the continuation of which the Fund plays an instrumental role,

Taking account of the fund-raising campaign launched on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees at its eleventh session, held from 22 April to 1 May 1992, to enhance the capacity of the Fund to respond more favourably to the increasing number of requests for assistance to victims of torture,

Taking account also of the increasing number of projects and the repeated requests by the Board of Trustees of the Fund to have adequate staff for the operations of the Fund,

Noting with satisfaction the establishment of an international network of centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims, which plays an important role in providing assistance to victims of torture, and the collaboration of the Fund with these centres,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for the work it has accomplished;

2. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation to those Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the Fund;

3. Appeals to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible, on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees;

4. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the Commission for contributions to the Fund;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate staff and technical equipment for the operations of the Fund;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Commission informed of the operations of the Fund on an annual basis.